

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Advisory Action states that applicants' Amendment After Final Rejection filed on December 14, 2010 has not been entered because it raises new issues. However, as explained to the Examiner during a telephone conference on December 23, 2009, the Amendment After Final Rejection simply rewrites allowable dependent claims 25, 26 and 31 in independent form as suggested in paragraph 3 on page 7 of the final Office Action dated September 29, 2009.

Paragraph 3 states as follows:

“3. Claims 25-26, 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

In the Amendment After Final Rejection, claim 31 was rewritten in independent form by canceling said claim and incorporating its subject matter into independent claim 1. Objected-to claims 25-26 were not canceled because they depend from independent claim 1. However, claims 25-26 were duplicated in new claims 32-33. New claim 32 represents objected-to claim 25 rewritten in independent form. Claim 32 includes all of the elements of claim 1 (prior to the most-recent amendment), claim 24 and claim 25. New claim 33 depends from new claim 32 and duplicates objected-to claim 26.

Independent claim 17 was canceled, leaving claims 1-5, 21-30 and 32-33 in the application. Claim 1 is allowable because it represents objected-to claim 31 rewritten in independent form. Claims 2-5 and 21-30 are allowable because they depend from amended claim 1. Claim 32 is allowable because it represents objected-to claim 25 rewritten in

independent form. Claim 33 is allowable because it depends from claim 32 and also contains the subject matter of objected-to claim 26.

In view of the foregoing, it will be seen that Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues. Applicants therefore respectfully request that all rejections be withdrawn and that Notices of Allowability and Allowance be issued. In the event that the Examiner disagrees with the foregoing, he is urged contact applicants' undersigned representative to discuss this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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